



The Express



2nd Quarter

June 2019

Dates to Remember:

- 6/6 D-Day
- 6/14 Flag Day
- 6/16 Father's Day
- 6/21 Summer Solstice
- 6/25 Crossover Youth Forum
- 7/1 New Fiscal Year
- 7/4 Independence Day
- 7/28 Parent's Day
- 8/7 Purple Heart Day
- 8/21 Senior Citizens Day
- 8/26 Women's Equality Day

Inside this issue:

Mark Olin/Karen Hamby Retirement	1
Past Voices	2
Drug Court Torch Run	3
30 Year Employees Beatriz Felix	4
Detention Golf Tournament	5
Graduations	6
Detention Training CASA	7
Aztec Graduation Kickball Tourney	8
Programs	9
Aztec High School Birthdays	10
Masters Institute Collections	11
New Hires Quarter Awards	12
Out and About	13-14

Retirements Have a Huge Impact on the Juvenile Court

It has been said that it is only after you lose someone that you realize their true value. The Juvenile Court lost two of its shining stars to retirement in May, but we already knew that their unique impact on the department was not going to be easily duplicated.

Karen Hamby

Karen Hamby began her career with the Juvenile Court more than 30 years ago, starting as a clerk in January of 1988. She held a variety of clerical positions before becoming the Court Services Supervisor in 1999.

However, she really made her mark beginning in 2004, when she took over the role of Automation Training Specialist. This was actually the coordina-

tor of JOLTS, the juvenile court's automation system. Karen was only the third person to ever hold that job since 1987, when JOLTS was first implemented. She was technically transferred to the Superior Court Information Technology Department in 2010, but never actually left the Juvenile Court.

Karen was a leader at the state level on the automation system and its various upgrades, always keeping Yuma County's needs at the forefront. While her emphasis on quality assurance gave nightmares to staff who had made mistakes, Yuma County was known having the highest quality data in the state.

Karen retired on May 10, 2019 and immediately took an IT position with the Quechan Tribe at Fort Yuma.

Mark Olin

Mark Olin spent nearly 24 years as an infantryman in the U.S. Army before coming to Aztec High School as a teacher in August of 2001.

He was perhaps best known for his knowledge of history and government, especially his Vietnam Ex-



Mark Olin

perience class. He taught a variety of other subjects, as well, including Latino Studies and photography. Mark's philosophy was that he wanted his students to slow down and view the world through a different lens.

Mark was just as well known for his jokes and his stories as he was for his tough love. He treated his students like adults and expected them to act accordingly.

Mark's last official day was May 23, the day of graduation, but he is still under contract for summer school through June 28. After that, he plans to do some traveling with his wife, who has also retired.

Both Mark Olin and Karen Hamby will sorely missed. We wish them the best in their retirements and will carry on the best we can without them.



Karen Hamby

Crime Begins at Young Age

VOICES FROM THE PAST

From the September 23, 1974 issue of the Yuma Daily Sun

LEGISLATOR'S REPORT

By Sen. Jones Osborn

I can still remember how shocked I was a couple of years ago when I read a report on juvenile delinquency in Pima County. I saved that report.

The report covered minors (17 and under) who were referred to Pima County Juvenile Court in one year. More than 70% were boys, and 66% were "Caucasian," meaning Anglos.

But the shock was learning that 14% of the offenders were *under the age of 13*. And already they were showing up in juvenile court. Having youngsters of 13, 14, 15 and 16 referred to the courts is bad enough, but these are youngsters of 8, 9, 10 and 11 years. How many of them would be helped? And how many would continue to have trouble with the law for the rest of their lives?

An informal survey of judges and probation officers was made by a state legislator. Why, they asked, do youngsters get into trouble with the law?

Robert Broomfield, presiding judge of the Maricopa County Juvenile Court Center, had a figure to report: "Over 6,000 non-criminal referrals were received for the offenses of incorrigibility, runaway and chronic truancy. The single

most important factor common in these referrals is that incorrigible behavior *is almost inevitably family centered*. We hardly abate the problem by taking the child out of the home where his only "offense" is being beyond control of his parents, and possibly institutionalize him. By doing so we, in effect, prevent whatever help may be available from focusing upon that setting in which adjustment must be achieved: the family."

Judge Robert E. McGhee of Gila County had this to say: "I do not think all problems can be blamed on the home environment, particularly considering the problems of our times; but I am sure that some inadequacies in the home are substantially responsible for the problems that arise in at least 75 percent of our cases."

The chief probation officer in Prescott, T. E. Boyer, made this response: "Approximately 68% to 72% of juvenile cases adjudicated are either directly or indirectly related to family problems in the following order: Poor home environment; broken home, with one parent in home; broken home with step-parents; good home but lack of communication between children and parents."

Judge William W. Nabours of Yuma County Superior court offered a higher figure, based upon his experience: 80 to 90 percent.

Those letters were written early in 1973. The Legislature at that time was debating the merits of an en-

tirely new program, aimed at delinquency. The program called for the state to provide funds so that local counseling could be given to families—not just the youngster—where it was evident that the youngster was getting into serious trouble.

Said one judge: "The people who need help with their problems are the last ones to see and admit it. Therefore I think the provision of your bill providing for authority to order family counseling may in many cases accomplish what gentle persuasion might not otherwise be able to do."

Well, that bill failed to pass. Perhaps we will try again.

I was reminded of all this a couple of weeks ago when I read that Phoenix had achieved a new notoriety. It had the highest crime rate of any city in the U.S. Immediately, there were loud cries for more police, for longer prison sentences, for fewer paroles. Maybe those things are indeed needed in Phoenix.

But I didn't hear anyone calling for an effort to head off crime *before it gets started*. Arresting law-breakers and putting them in prison is only the very last chapter in a long, long story of misbehavior in a majority of cases. One judge—remember? - estimated 80% to 90% of juvenile cases stem from problems of the family or home.

As the twig is bent, so grows the tree.

Elizabeth Torres Marquez is a Great Drug Court Success Story

By: Carmen Gardea

On May 29, 2019, Drug Court celebrated the graduation of Elizabeth Torres Marquez. Elizabeth spent 13 months with the program, had over 300 days of sobriety, excellent grades and made significant personal progress during her journey to sober living.

Juvenile Drug Court is an approximately one-year program designed to help juveniles move beyond substance abuse and dependency. Drug Court requires juveniles to engage in group and one-on-one counseling, family counseling, drug testing, pro-social activities and personal growth, with the ultimate goal of sober living.

Elizabeth came to the program struggling with substance abuse, unhealthy peer connections, and was staying out overnight without permission. After beginning the program, Elizabeth self-identified that her attitude and behavior were negatively impacting her life.

Initially Elizabeth was disappointed that she would not be attending her home high school, Kofa. At Aztec High, she faced some challenges with bullying and rumors. Elizabeth always used her better judgment to stay out of arguments and trouble.

Over time, she found friends, focused on her grades and has proven to be an excellent student with a commendable GPA. When asked if she will be returning to Kofa, she stated, "I have to think about it; Aztec is where my friends are."

Through her work with counselors at The Healing Journey, Community Provider of Enrichment Services (CPES) and the Drug Court team, Elizabeth has found sobriety, improved her confidence and learned valuable coping and communication skills. She now loves being at home.

Elizabeth is also focused on her future. She has goals of taking up



Elizabeth with Probation Supervisor Henry "Beau" Gonzalez and Drug Court Judge Stephen J. Rouff

competitive cheerleading again. Next school year she plans on attending a trade school concurrently with her high school studies in order to obtain her Medical Assistant Certification.

After high school, Elizabeth plans to go to college to study nursing and to travel the country with the freedom that her education and sobriety will afford her.

Juvenile Court Staff Participate in Special Olympics Torch Run

Along with over 100 runners from various federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, ten employees of the Yuma County Juvenile Court participated in the Arizona Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics on May 1.

Yuma was assigned the fifth leg of the relay, in which officers and athletes carried the torch, known as the "Flame of Hope," over a 22-mile course, starting at the border in San Luis, Arizona and ending at the Yuma Quartermaster Depot. Each agency covered a portion of that distance, walking, running and bicycling as far as they were able to go.

Following a reception at the Quartermaster Depot, the Flame of Hope continued on its way to Glendale, Arizona, where it was used to light the flame at the Special Olympics Arizona Summer Games, which were held at Raymond S. Kellis High School May 9-11.

Each year, nearly 100,000 law enforcement officers from over 35 countries from around the globe participate in this event, which has raised more than \$500 million for Special Olympics since its inception in 1981.



Front: Imelda Arellano, Rafael Garcia; Back: Anita Salisbury, Mike Eslinger, Sarah Jaramillo, Rosalba Gomez, Maria Martinez, Guillermo Gatón, Jacqueline Medina, Juan Linarez

Next year, Detention Officer Rafael Garcia will be taken over coordination of the event from Juan Linarez.

Juvenile Court Employees Recognized for 30 Years of Service

At Yuma County's 2018 Employee of the Year and Years of Service Ceremony held at the Yuma Art Center on April 20, 2019, Annette Steinberg and Rose Hooker were each recognized for 30 years of service.

Not only have they proven, over the years, to be invaluable members of the Juvenile Court family, both Annette and Rose started on the same day, September 26, 1988.

Annette Menchaca began as a Records and Communications Assistant III, assigned to intensive probation and the court's literacy lab. In 1992, she switched to the Community Service program, scheduling hours and going over the rules with participants and their parents.

In May of 1994, Annette earned her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Northern Arizona University in Yuma. While this may surprise some people, Annette became a probation officer



Annette Steinberg



Rose Hooker

on August 1, 1994, assigned to diversion and Interstate Compact cases.

In 1996, Annette took over as coordinator of Juvenile Training and Special Programs, which later developed into the Human Resources Specialist position she still holds today.

Rose Marie Figueroa was also hired as a Records and Communication Assistant III, replacing Rosalee Headington as the department's receptionist and bookkeeper.

A short time later, she took a position as financial officer, which had her meeting with parents, going over financial information and collecting fines and fees. This was shortly after the state had implemented probation fees in the juvenile court, and the collections were her primary responsibility. Rose also recalls being called upon to translate in court quite frequently.

Rose earned her Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Northern Arizona University in Yuma in 1995, but never went the probation officer route. Instead, in 1996, she became the executive assistant for the director, which she also holds to this day.

Thirty years after beginning their careers on the same day, and after following such similar paths, these two outstanding Juvenile Court employees continue to have a huge daily impact on the operations of this agency.

Beatriz Felix Recognized by Optimist Club

Already selected as the juvenile court's Probation Officer of the Year for 2018, Beatriz Felix was honored again on May 22 during a breakfast meeting of the Sunrise Optimist Club of Yuma.

The Optimists have been giving out awards each year since 1965 as part of their Respect for Law Day, a national observance sponsored by Optimist International to honor law enforcement officers and fire fighters.

The award is given for "exhibiting individual respect for law and for fulfilling personal obligations to fellow citizens and to the community," and is intended to inspire respect for the law among the youth.

Beatriz has been with the department for more than 13 years and is currently a Probation Officer I assigned to the department's Standard Probation unit. Beatriz started as a detention officer, moving to probation in 2016, after completing her Bachelor's Degree. She has since earned two Master's Degrees, all while working for the court full-time.

Due to her friendly nature and easy-going personality, Beatriz has been a perfect fit for the probation department. She has initiative, knows how to prioritize, is structured and very well organized. For example, Beatriz has created comprehensive binders for each new job, including policies, computer system screen shots and step-by-step instructions. These



Imelda Arellano (I) with Beatriz Felix receiving Optimist award

have proven to be invaluable to herself and to her fellow officers.

Beatriz will also be recognized in September at the Statewide Probation Awards and Recognition luncheon in Mesa, where she is our court's nominee for the Arizona State Line Officer of the Year.

Programming Opportunities Show a Different Side of Detention

By: Katherine Wilkey

If you have never been to the juvenile detention center, it is hard to picture what life is like for the youth being held there. Movies have painted pictures that make it appear to be an unwelcoming and cold environment, however, everything that happens in the facility is to benefit the youth.

During the weekdays, the juveniles attend school and work on activity packets aimed at teaching them skills to live more successfully in the outside community. While weekday activities can seem repetitive, they are necessary for the juveniles to remain a part of school and personal growth activities, as well as attending court and meeting with anyone they need to regarding their cases.

However, the weekends in detention have more free time and no school work. This allows for the detention officers to get creative and teach their own lesson plans based off their

interests or things they feel will benefit the youth. With at least four programming activities a weekend, the juveniles can get a break from the normal schedule and learn in less traditional ways.

Pod managers have created activities based on building life skills, including: mock job interviews, resume writing, taking the Holland career aptitude test and teamwork activities among the youth.



Other programming activities focus more on unwinding from the week, including painting, basic weaving, paper mache and other crafts. Doing crafts in the pod not only allows the

juveniles to relax, but helps them to work on patience, self expression and creativity.

Recently a detention officer was able to teach the female pod how to change a tire. Not being able to fully demonstrate, she talked them through the process. Over a week later, when asked, one of the girls was able to explain the process and even had solutions to other problems that might occur. The girl stated that gaining this knowledge made her feel strong and independent.

Juvenile detention can be seen as a harsh punishment for kids who have made mistakes, but thanks to amazing officers, it has become a place of learning and growth. Using simple compassion and creativity, they have create an environment in which the juveniles can learn from their mistakes and hone new skills and abilities they may not otherwise have known about.

Kids at Hope Conducts its Second Annual Golf Tournament

The Yuma County chapter of Kids at Hope conducted its second annual golf tournament on May 4 at the Cocopah RV & Golf Resort.

The tournament was a four-person scramble with a shotgun start. A total of 20 teams entered, up from last year's 16.



Tim Hardy leads the auction



Nacho Woods

In addition to a tri-tip luncheon after the tournament, there was an auction, as well as a raffle. A large number of items both auctioned and raffled off, including a tri-tip dinner for 25.

The tournament was able to meet its goal, raising a total of \$15,000, the proceeds of which will go to fund Kids at Hope activities in the community. A lot of hard work went into making this event a success for a second year in a row.



Tournament organizers

The Cocopah Golf Resort has already been reserved for next year's event.

Additional photos and videos are available on the *Kids at Hope Yuma AZ* Facebook page.

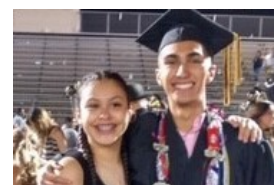
Just the Facts - Did You Know That...



Did you know... that the Juvenile Court has over 19 employees whose family members and/or relatives celebrated graduations in May of 2019? These ranged from preschool and kindergarten all the way through high school and college.

Please join me in honoring the Juvenile Court family's 2019 Graduating Class. These graduates are:

- ◇ **Imelda Arellano:** Yanel Plata (Niece) graduated from Northern Arizona University with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education, with specialization in Special Education. She will be teaching fourth grade in the Phoenix area.
- ◇ **Imelda Arellano:** Claudia Maribel Ruiz (Sister) graduated from Northern Arizona University with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. She will be teaching first grade in the Phoenix area.
- ◇ **Stephanie Buthmann:** Alexia Munoz (Daughter) graduated from Arizona Western College with an Associates Degree in Administration of Justice - Homeland Security. She will be attending Arizona State University in the fall.
- ◇ **Stephanie Buthmann:** Amani and Ameriss Acosta (Grandchildren) graduated from kindergarten at Pueblo Elementary School.
- ◇ **Arturo Caro:** Issac Caro (Son) graduated from Cibola High School with an award for high GPA. He has also been attending Arizona Western College and will graduate with his associate's degree next school year.
- ◇ **Arturo Caro:** Issael Caro was promoted from 6th grade at Gary A. Knox Elementary School and will be attending Centennial Middle School in the fall. He was recognized for excellence in academics and sports, including the Playworks Junior Coach program.
- ◇ **Debbie Coker:** Alexa Lozano (Granddaughter) graduated from Clairemont High School in San Diego and will be attending San Diego State University in the fall.
- ◇ **Claudia Felix:** Layla Castillo (Granddaughter) graduated from Happy Trails Pre-school. 
- ◇ **Maria Martinez:** Elexia Martinez (Daughter) graduated from Kofa High School, where she also received her Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certification, and will be attending the College of Nursing and Health Innovation at Arizona State University.
- ◇ **Maria Martinez:** Javier Martinez (Son) was promoted from the sixth grade at Orange Grove Elementary School.
- ◇ **Maria Martinez:** Isabella Martinez (Daughter) was promoted from kindergarten at Orange Grove Elementary School.
- ◇ **Samantha May:** Armina Piedra (Daughter) graduated from Woodard Junior High School, where she was the seventh grade Athlete of the Year and maintained a 4.0 GPA all three years. She will be attending Yuma Catholic High School.
- ◇ **Ben Rowe:** Cassandra Perez (Daughter) graduated from Arizona Western College with Associates Degrees in Nursing and in Arts and Sciences. She will be attending the nursing program at Gateway Community College in Phoenix in the fall.
- ◇ **Ben Rowe:** Ethan Munoz (Nephew) graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelors Degree in Systems Engineering. He is working for Raytheon in Tucson as a software engineer.
- ◇ **Miguel Saldana:** Karla Saldana (Daughter) graduated from Kofa High School and will attend the nursing program at Arizona Western College.
- ◇ **Miguel Saldana:** Alyssa Olmeda (Granddaughter) graduated from kindergarten at Gary Knox Elementary School.
- ◇ **Lisa Schaefer:** Sabrina Borland (Goddaughter) graduated from Yum Catholic High School. She will be attending Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff to become a physical therapist.
- ◇ **Alma Villalobos:** Elian Macias (Nephew) graduated from Cibola High School and will be attending Arizona Western College.
- ◇ **Alma Villalobos:** Clarissa Villalobos (Daughter) graduated from Crane Middle School and will be attending Cibola High School.



Clarissa Villalobos and Elian Macias

Fifth Group of Officers Completes Detention Academy

By: Oscar Bendele

Five new detention officers have just completed the fifth Detention Officer Extended Field Training Academy that took place April 29 - May 3, 2019. Detention Officers Adan Bejarano, Anastacia Chavez, Elder Dominguez, Rene Serna and Carlos Vasquez endured a week-long course of AOC mandated classes.

Instructors were Supervisors Grant Rader and Lisa Klauck; D.O. III's Stephanie Buthmann, Steven Banielos and Charlie Santa Cruz, D.O. II's David Reyes, Oscar Bendele and Ignacio Trejo; and Probation Officer Edna Lugo.

Some of the classes included Behavior Management, Report Writing, Adolescent Brain Development, Officer Safety/Defensive Tactics and Handle with Care.

Newly graduated Detention Officer Anastacia Chavez stated, "I thought the academy was very informative and I liked learning the different aspects, such as the juvenile's brain, computers and programs".

On May 3, 2019, the graduation ceremony, presided over by Director Tim Hardy, Deputy Director Ignacio Galindo and Detention Supervisor Grant Rader, was con-



Hardy, Stocking-Tate, Vasquez, Bejarano, Chavez, Dominguez, Serna, Galindo

ducted for these five new Detention Officers. They were then sworn in by the Juvenile Court's presiding judge, the Honorable Kathryn Stocking-Tate.

CASA Conducts Recognition Banquet

Yuma County's Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program held its 26th annual recognition banquet at the First Assembly of God Church on April 11. The event was designed to recognize the hard work of the 49 volunteers who make the program a success in Yuma County.

Guest speaker at the banquet was Ignacio Galindo, Deputy Director.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the CASA of the Year award, which went to Jarrod Holiman, which was presented by CASA Coordinator Veronica Davis and Lisa Schaefer..

Juvenile Judges Kathryn Stocking-Tate and Stephen J. Rouff presented the Judges Appreciation Award for Outstanding Advocacy to De- lores Porter.

Probation Supervisor Henry "Beau" Gonzalez presented the Shining Star Award to Joe Mitchell.

The Rookie of the Year award was presented to Kimberley Kern, while J.D. Durden received the Roadrunner Award for driving 2,748 miles during 2018 to carry out his CASA duties. Total mileage by all CASA's was 29,611.



Jarrod Holiman



Recognition was also give to new Peer Coordinators J.D. Durden, Sandy Garrison and Stacy Moorhead.

CASA volunteers are everyday citizens appointed by a judge to speak up for abused and neglected children in court. CASA volunteers make recommendations to the court, representing the best interests of the child.

Aztec High School Conducts its Spring Graduation Ceremony

By: Fran Rodriguez

Aztec High School celebrated its spring graduation on May 23, 2019 at the Yuma County Main Library with 14 students who had met the requirements for graduation in attendance.

With a full house of family and friends, the festivities were kicked off by Aztec Principal Steve Pallack.

Featured speakers were Tim D. Hardy, the Superintendent of Aztec and Director of the Yuma County Juvenile Court, and Dr. Linda Elliot Nelson, Vice President for Learning Services at Arizona Western College. Also in attendance were The Honorable Kathryn Stocking-Tate, Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court; Lynne Pancrazi of the Yuma County Board of Supervisors and County Administrator Susan Thorpe.

The graduates were Alexis Aguiar, Carmen Alva, Gianna Covarrubias, Edgardo Gerardo Acosta, Roberto

Gonzalez, Jalisa Nunez, Florencia Ochoa, Marlene Ontiveros, Leo Pineda, Ian Saldana, Yiran Salomon, Diego Tapia, Jorge Vargas and Denise Villaruya.

Hardy talked to the graduates about time traveling, continuing their education and picking a successful career, stating that "Success is whatever you choose to do."

Dr. Nelson made a connection with the movie *Avengers: Endgame*, comparing education to collecting infinity stones. She also referred to the *Grit Factor*—making it to the finish line no matter what.

Alexis Aguiar gave the senior speech, telling the graduates that their success was really up to them. She also received the Kevin King Scholarship and presented an honor-



ary Aztec diploma to teacher Mark Olin, who was retiring after 18 years.

Gianna Covarrubias was recognized by Regional Center for Border Health for completing the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) course in addition to her regular classes. She passed the certification class two days later.

We are extremely proud of all our students; they are the reason we are here. Congrats 2019 Graduates!!!

San Luis Kickball Tournament

By: Rosalba Gomez

Coordinated by Probation Officer Juan Linarez, the Juvenile Court held its fifth Kickball Tournament at Joe Orduno Park in San Luis, Arizona on Saturday, April 27, 2019.

Teams were made up of 20 staff members and over 40 juveniles from JIPS, Standard Probation, Drug Court, Change Begins with Me and Successful Futures. In addition, referees were Leo Mendez and Anita Salisbury, announcer was Juan Rodriguez and scorekeepers were Emmie Roman and Samantha May.

The tournament is a prosocial event under the Hobbies and Recreation destination of Kids at Hope.



Ariel Acosta, Anet Solorzano and Rafael Garcia with their team, Metallics, made up of Standard Probation participants

Juvenile Court Programs Provide a Variety of Activities for Youth

By: Araceli Negrete and Carmen Gardea

Autobahn Indoor Speedway



On Friday May 24, 2019, twelve youth from Drug Court, Change Begins With Me and Aim For Success programs, along with four staff, had the opportunity to take a summer trip to the Autobahn Indoor Speedway in Tucson, Arizona.

There they learned about the math, physics, strategy, planning and safety involved in Go Kart Track Racing. Youth were able to participate in two races in karts with speeds up to 50 miles per hour and the top four were able to race each other for the moniker of Grand Champion. Alberto Martinez took the fastest time over Eli Flores, Adrian Medina, Elizabeth Torres Marquez, and Xitlaly Ramirez. This was a wonderful way for staff to interact with juveniles in a team building exercise and touch on the hobbies and recreation domain.

Fishing Clinic



On April 20, 2019, eighteen youth from South County probation participated in a fishing clinic put on by Arizona Game and Fish. For some juveniles, this was a new experience and proved to be very beneficial.

Official, helping them discover new hobbies that could interest them.

Game and Fish provided the equipment, education, bait and experience. Many of the youth were able to catch fish or turtles and all of them had fun.

After fishing, the youth enjoyed a pizza picnic courtesy of the Juvenile Court. This was a great prosocial activity that touched on the hobbies and recreation domain as well as promoting community appreciation and attachment.

Change Begins With Me



Change Begins with Me has recently started providing community service at the Life Care Center of Yuma. During a recent Easter barbeque, the youth served the seniors their food and helped transport them around the facility.

Successful Futures

The fifth cycle of the Successful Futures program began on May 28, 2019 with 13 youth and two staff; Probation Officer II Liliana Lugo and Family Support Specialist Carmen Gardea.

The foundation of this program is the Kids at Hope philosophy and the identification of each youth's four destinations; Home & Family, Education & Career, Hobbies & Recreation, and Community & Service. The program is then customized to engage youth with local community leaders connected to their future

destinations. Community leaders will be invited to "mixers" where youth will be able to ask questions about their fields of interest, get first hand guidance on how best to be successful in those fields, shadowing opportunities and a better understanding of the challenges that they may face as they pursue their goals.

The group is currently working on team building and understanding the difference between behavior in private and behavior in public. Youth will explore the values that they have acquired over the years, how the people they surround themselves with impact those values and using the power of goal setting to become the kind of adult that they can be proud of.

In June, the Successful Futures team will explore the Home and Family Domain, learning about how to build healthy relationships and how to look for relationship red flags. The group will also participate in preparing and enjoying a family style dinner.

The highlight of June will be the Successful Futures summer trip to the Arizona Science Center in Phoenix on June 20. Tune in to the next Express Newsletter to hear more about this fun educational trip.

Hope Closet

The Hope Closet, on site at the Hope Assessment Center, was allocated funding in May of 2019 to add new clothing, shoes and toiletries to its existing inventory. Youth involved with the court will be eligible to request assistance. To refer a youth for consideration, contact a Family Support Specialist at (928) 314-1900.

Aztec High School Completes Another Successful Year

By: **Fran Rodriguez**

Aztec High School started off the 2018-19 school year with a theme of *DESTINATION...Where are your Shoes Going to Take You?* The year culminated in the graduation of 14 students on May 23, but there was a lot that took place in between.

For many years, Aztec has been one the top schools in the state for Relay for Life, the American Cancer Society's community based fundraising event. In fact, Aztec outperforms all other local high schools combined, year after year. This year has been no different.

Throughout the year, students and staff put on a series of fundraisers. This included a bike raffle, selling Little Caesar's pizza kits, Halloween jars, and a car wash. The big one was a Valentine's Day Craft Fair on February 9, where artists, bakers, crafters, artisans and co-op vendors were invited to come and peddle their wares.

Funds raised during the year totaled over \$10,000. Team Aztec then partic-

ipated in the Relay event at Desert Sun Stadium on April 27.

This year, Aztec featured its first ever school club, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), which was led by Business Teacher Kayla Walden. On April 24-26, students from Aztec; including Mary Jane Smith, Elizabeth Torres Marquez and Diana Ballesteros; participated in the FBLA state conference in Tucson.



Smith, Torres Marquez, Ballesteros and Walden

Each student competed in five out of 60 events, covering such areas as technology, public speaking, business, finance and management. The Aztec team received Bronze Chapter status, while Ballesteros took third place individually in Business Communications.

During the spring semester, Aztec again featured a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) course, in partnership with Regional Center for Border Health. One student, Gianna Covarrubias, completed the course and passed her certification exam.

During summer school June 10-28, Aztec will be featuring two new workshops. One week-long program will be on construction trades; including plumbing, HVAC and electrical. Another weeklong course will in culinary arts on the baking of bread, being conducted in the detention center kitchen.

Stay tuned for more great Aztec events when school reopens in August.

Aging to Perfection

Yolanda Huerta-Urbalejo,	June 2
Ernesto Montes	June 3
Jolene Hefner	June 6
Celeste Marchante	June 11
Lora DeLeon	June 12
Aracely Negrete	June 12
Miguel Saldana	June 13
Billy Hochheimer	June 20
Alexis Urtuzuastegui	June 26
Steven Banuelos	June 28
Jeffrey St. Clair	June 28

Matt Fox	June 29
Juan Linarez	July 3
Alex Godinez	July 4
Gabriela Lachica-Rodriguez	July 6



Ariel Acosta	July 10
Carmen Gardea	July 14
Charlie Santa Cruz	July 20
Maria Godwin	July 27
David Sherman	July 27
Anet Solorzano	Aug 1
Edna Lugo	Aug 10
Jacqueline Medina	Aug 10
Alejandro Caballero	Aug 12
Alexander Castillo	Aug 21
Yvonne Graf	Aug 21
Eli Flores	Aug 31

Yuma Group Has a Huge Impact on the Kids at Hope Masters Institute

By: Alma Villalobos

A large contingent of 15 staff and eight community members made Yuma's presence felt at the 14th annual Youth Development Master's Institute in Phoenix May 5-10, 2019. Kids at Hope, in conjunction with the Arizona State University Sanford School of Social & Family Dynamics annually sponsors this event.

In addition to having great representation, the Yuma crowd brought enthusiasm and energy to all attendees. To get things started, Yuma reenacted its very own lip sync challenge.

Beau Gonzalez and the rest of the Yuma crew energized the entire audience and had them singing and dancing to the tune of *Lean on Me* by Big Mountain.



Yuma had everyone excited for HOPE and led the entire audience in reciting the Kids at Hope

pledge in unison. From that point forward, Yuma took centerstage throughout the institute.

Yuma's virtual tour on Tuesday was highly reviewed. It started with our director giving a historical perspective of how Kids at Hope was implemented within our department and throughout our community and schools.

The audience was connected live to Elizabeth Acosta at Salida del Sol Elementary School, one of the Hope schools within Yuma County, where participants were able to interact with students talking about how Kids at Hope had affected them.

This was followed by a virtual connection to our Hope Center, where Guillermo Gatón led a group of Juvenile Court staff in reciting the Kids at Hope pledge.



Yuma's involvement in this year's institute will not soon be forgotten. Yuma is certainly leading the way in the Kids at Hope movement.



Numbers That Matter

By: Maria Martinez

Probation Fees Collected

	February	March	April
Standard	\$ 7,182.50	\$ 9,548.00	\$ 8,740.50
JIPS	\$ 1,695.00	\$ 4,255.00	\$ 3,255.00
Diversion	\$ 1,220.00	\$ 1,740.00	\$ 1,695.00
Collections	\$ 415.00	\$ 11,792.27	\$ 3,707.97
Off Probation	\$ 1,239.00	\$ 2,663.08	\$ 673.02
Total	\$11,751.50	\$29,998.35	\$18,071.49

Restitution Collected

	February	March	April
	\$12,584.86	\$ 308.87	\$ 20.00
	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,129.94	\$ 0.00
	\$ 0.00	\$ 194.08	\$ 209.65
	\$ 0.00	\$ 5,531.62	\$ 1,724.00
	\$ 472.76	\$ 176.30	\$ 378.08
	\$13,057.62	\$ 7,340.81	\$ 2,331.73

New Hires



Anastacia Chavez
Detention Officer I
March 11



Iris Cruz
Volunteer
March 27



Sandra Garrison
CASA Coordinator
April 22

First Quarter Awards



Guillermo Gatón

**Family Support Specialist
Employee of the Quarter**



Melanie Rowe

**Detention Officer I
Detention Officer of the Quarter**



Johnna Byrd

**Probation Officer I
Probation Officer of the Quarter**

Guillermo Gatón has been a key player in the Cross Over Youth Initiative. I believe that his dedication to the youth who are in both the DCS and Juvenile Justice systems is special, as he was previously involved with the Dependency Program. He has developed a relationship with DCS that has been a benefit to our department in meeting the needs of our youth.

Guillermo treats others with respect and has gained the same respect in return. He takes pride in his work and it shows daily. Since the planning phase began for the Crossover Youth Practice Model, Guillermo has played an integral part to ensure painless implementation.

Melanie Rowe has been in her current position since 2007. She takes the time to listen to the juveniles and what they have to say. Because of this, she has learned a lot about their histories and family dynamics. When a situation or concern arises, she is able to relay important information about that juvenile to other staff members and in most cases, she effectively handles the situation herself when it occurs on her shift.

Officer Rowe is comfortable working all shifts and completing her duties as a Detention Officer I. She represents the department in a very positive manner when dealing with other agencies or people who may have business with the court.

Johnna Byrd goes above and beyond for every juvenile placed on her Drug Court caseload. She gets to know their families, school leaders and community providers. She monitors sobriety, as well as their personal progress and their mental health.

I have witnessed Officer Byrd providing insights to care providers that have made an impact on the stability and wellbeing of the juveniles on her caseload, specifically related to the current fentanyl crisis.

Additionally, Johnna is friendly and helpful to all of her co-workers, she demonstrates compassion to adults and juveniles alike, and is passionate about helping her community.

Out and About: Lake Havasu City

By: "Ranger Dave" Sherman

Lake Havasu City, Arizona is just over a two and a half hour drive from Yuma. It is the home of the London Bridge and Lake Havasu.

In April 2019, my son Travis and I had the opportunity to visit and stay in Lake Havasu City for several days. The purpose of our stay was because we had entered the Nevada Police and Fire Games, representing the Yuma County Juvenile Justice Center, and one of the events was being held there on Monday April 29 and Tuesday April 30.

The event was bass fishing. A total of 35 teams entered this event. We arrived there on Friday afternoon, April 26. We got settled into our hotel and rested and got our gear ready. Our plan was to pre-fish Lake Havasu Saturday and then half the day on Sunday.



The hotel we stayed in was walking distance to the London Bridge and the shops and restaurants that were around there. Also, there was a boating event that was going on that same weekend and there were doz-

ens of boats driving by in the channel under the London Bridge. These were large, fast, high dollar boats. Very beautiful boats. There were boats also lined on each side of the channel with people visiting with each other and listening to music. Some folks were dancing, drinking and barbequing.

A little bit about the London Bridge. It was first built in London in 1831. In 1962, because of increased loads of modern traffic and the concern that it was not strong enough to support this traffic, it was sold by the City of London. Robert P. McCulloch bought the London Bridge for 2.46 million dollars.

It was first taken apart and each stone numbered and then the stones were sent to a quarry in England where 5.9 to 7.9 inches were shaved off many of the stones. From there the disassembled bridge was placed on a cargo ship, which sailed to the Port of Long Beach in California. From there, it was trucked to Lake Havasu City and the reassembly began in 1968. The reconstruction took just over three years and it was completed in late 1971. The reconstruction took place over land and once it was completed, the Bridgewater Channel Canal was dredged underneath it and then flooded. The bridge is very beautiful, and it is interesting to look at and just see how it all fit back together. It is reported to have quite a bit of history, to include stories of people's heads hanging from it back in London during the early years.

There is a walkway along the channel and in the area under the London Bridge; there are several restaurants and shops to visit. It was just peaceful to stroll along the walkway and look at things and people. There are



Dave Sherman at the London Bridge

boats, jet-skis and wave runners for rent and you can take a boat tour on Lake Havasu. Also, there is a passenger boat that will take you across the lake to the other side in California where there is a casino. Many folks headed there.

When Travis and I finally launched our boat and headed out onto Lake Havasu, we soon learned what people there refer to as the "Havasu Chop." Between all of the boats on the lake and the wind, it got rough out there.

We headed up the lake and into the Colorado River channel to see what was in that area. Very pretty. A lot of boats also headed up that way. We later learned that there was a bar and restaurant up the river near Interstate 40. We did not go quite that far; instead we fished the backwaters and channels to see if we could find and catch fish. We then went back downriver to the main lake and checked out other areas.

After two and a half days in the hotel, we moved to the campground, where

(Continued on page 16)

Out and About: Lake Havasu City (Continued)

we stayed for another two and a half days. We cowboy camped, just with cots and sleeping bags. We got a few mosquito bites during the night, but the wind kept most of them away from us. There were also showers and a restroom there.



Everyone who was participating in the bass fishing event met at one of the camping spots where the coordinator was staying. We had a meeting and a barbeque, and there were raffles. Everyone was friendly, but for us newcomers to Lake Havasu, they were not giving up their fishing techniques and secrets.

We met other folks in the campground who were not participating in the Nevada Police and Fire Games bass tournament event and all were friendly. One gentleman that Travis and I talk to really stood out. He was from California, from a town just out-

side of Bakersfield. He was staying in the campground and visiting friends who lived in Lake Havasu City.

We told him what we were doing and that the event was part of the Nevada Police and Fire Games. He mentioned to Travis and I that some of the folks who were participating in this event were from Las Vegas and were probably involved and responded to the mass shooting that took place during the Route 91 Harvest music festival back in 2017.

This gentleman had been there with his family when the shooting took place. His daughter was one of the 58 people killed that day. You could have heard a pin drop. Travis and I did not know what to say after that. Very sad.

The gentleman broke the silence by telling us that after the shooting and before they could leave to head back home from Las Vegas, the news medias were already trying to call him, and they were staked out at his residence in California. We just told him how sorry we were for him, his family and everyone who was there that day. We could still see it in his eyes and hear it in his speech when he talked about it and how it still affected him. We changed the subject after that.

Over the next two days we traveled and fished various places on Lake Havasu and in the upper portion of the Colorado River leading into Lake Havasu. We finished in 20th place with a two-day total of 25.75 pounds.

Even though we did not medal or place in the money, we had a great time and had the opportunity to meet a lot of nice folks. We also felt we did not do too badly for having only fished Lake Havasu two or three times. It is a beautiful lake.

Last of all, we had the opportunity to take that slow cruise through the channel and go under the London Bridge, just as so many other boats had done.



The staff of The Express is looking for your suggestions on ways to improve the content of the newsletter, as well as ideas for upcoming issues. If you have any ideas or would like to submit a story, contact Leo Mendez at lmendez@courts.az.gov or Ben Rowe at browe@courts.az.gov, or any member of the newsletter committee.

